GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:422
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
FIRING IN KARGIL SECTOR
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan forces have been firing in an intermittent way in Kargil and other sectors in J&K during the period of last two months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of soldiers and civilians killed and injured as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Firing across the Line of Control (LoC) in Kargil and other sectors isan ongoing phenomenon. There has been no perceptible change in firing patterns during the last two months upto 25.11.2003.

(b) During the period from 26.9.2003 to 25.11.2003, twelve army personnel have been killed and forty-five injured.

During the period from 15.9.2003 to 15.11.2003, seventeen civilians have been killed and forty-six injured.

(c) To deter Pakistan from firing, the Indian troops retaliate with punitive fire assaults on Pakistan posts. Further, the level of protection of the troops deployed along the LoC is continuously being upgraded byimproving defence works. In villages close to the LoC, shelters have been constructed by the Army and Civil Administration to protect the civilians from enemy firing.